

MEMOIRS

WILLIAM HUTTON

WILLIAM HUTTON, F.I.A., F.F.A., died in London on the 26th June, 1933, at the age of 62, deeply regretted by all who knew him. His actuarial career began brilliantly when he passed the intermediate and final examinations of the Institute and of the Faculty in consecutive years, and qualified for the Fellowship of both bodies before he was 22. In Parts II and III of the Faculty examinations he was placed first. He was then in the service of the Scottish Widows' Fund, which he had entered at the age of 15 or 16. It was early to start in life, but Hutton had been brought up in an intellectual atmosphere, and his great natural ability and subsequent wide reading more than compensated for the possible disadvantages of the choice which he made.

Hutton spent the years from 1894 to 1905 in London, where in 1896 he had become Assistant Secretary of the Scottish Amicable. In 1905 at the early age of 34 he was promoted to be the Manager and Actuary of that Society, a position which he filled with conspicuous skill and consequent success until his retirement in 1929. Five years previously he had been invited to become a Director of the Society. He was the first executive officer in the Insurance world to receive such a compliment, and the appointment was regarded at the time by all his friends as a well-deserved tribute both to his professional capacity and to his personal qualities.

Hutton's whole career, from his early and notable successes in his examinations to his Presidency of the Faculty, shows that he might have taken high rank as a scientific actuary, had he so desired. Indeed, he possessed in a noticeable degree that accuracy of mind and intellectual integrity which seem more appropriate to a life of scholarship and research than to a business career. But Hutton preferred to apply his natural powers and the advantages of his actuarial training to practical problems, and particularly to those of finance, in which he attained a skill and reputation which extended far beyond actuarial and insurance circles.

No memoir of Hutton would be complete unless it laid stress on his singularly attractive personality. His tall and dignified presence, his strong face and keen eyes, made him a distinguished figure in any company. Among his intimates his pleasant voice and interesting conversation, his lively sense of humour, his almost boyish enjoyment of a game, an outing, or of anything in the nature of a "lark," were qualities which, joined to his solid worth, endeared him to them in a measure to which few men can attain and which all may well envy.

*Quis desiderio sit pudor aut modus
Tam cari capitis?*

G. M.